

MAKE A TIMELINE

INTRODUCTION

This is a timeline activity. Whether it is a history timeline like this one or a geological timescale, students need practice sequencing events. The timeline in this activity gives perspective on the following: the sequence of events, the relative speed with which big new technologies like nuclear power were created, and the dependencies that were present between timelines.

STANDARDS

Grades 5 – 8

National Standards for History:
Historical Thinking Standard 1

NAME:

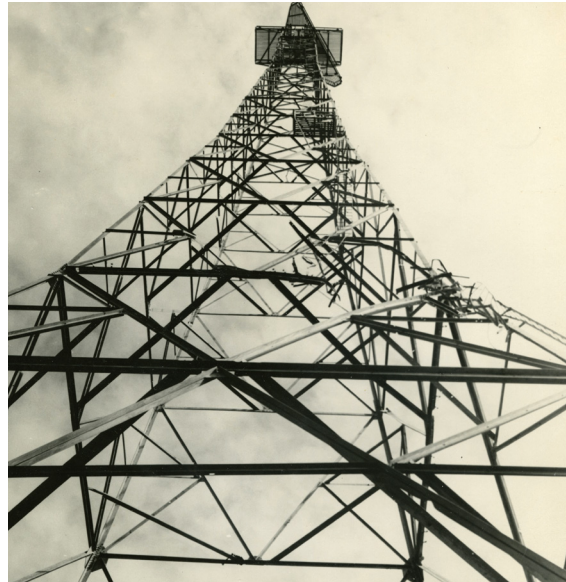
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MAKE A TIMELINE

By looking at the timeline of important events during World War II, you might be able to see how necessity creates innovation and how innovation solves problems.



US Army Sherman Tanks on a snowy road in Belgium, January 1945.
(*The National WWII Museum, 2004.311.052*)



A deserted Japanese radio tower in the Kwajalein atoll, January 1944.
(*The National WWII Museum, 2011.075.028*)



The *Enola Gay* on an airstrip at Tinian. This B-29 dropped the atomic bomb "Little Boy" over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. (*The National WWII Museum, 2012.195.159*)

Take the dates below and use them to make a timeline. Your timeline should start in September 1939 with the invasion of Poland by Germany. It should end in September 1945 with the surrender of Japan. Put the historical events and technological innovations in different colors.

HISTORICAL DATES

- + Soviet troops push Germans out of Soviet Union, June 1944
- + Germany invades Soviet Union, June 1941
- + British and US troops take Okinawa from Japan, June 1945
- + France is occupied by Germany, June 1940
- + British, French, and US troops liberate Paris, August 1944
- + Great Britain begins air-bombing attacks on Germany, May 1940
- + United States drops a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, August 1945
- + Battle of Britain begins July 1940 and ends October 1940
- + British and US troops enter Germany, October 1944
- + United States drops a nuclear bomb on Nagasaki, August 1945
- + Japan bombs Pearl Harbor; United States enters World War II, December 1941
- + British and US forces stop Japanese in the Pacific at Midway, June 1942
- + Allies take North Africa back from Germans, May 1943
- + Japan formally surrenders, September 1945
- + British, Canadian, and US troops land on beaches of Normandy (D-Day), June 1944
- + Battle of the Bulge begins, December 1944
- + Germany surrenders, May 1945

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

- + Factories to produce weapons-grade uranium and plutonium begin operation in the United States, January 1945
- + England starts research to develop nuclear bomb, October 1940
- + Great Britain erects Chain Home, a radar system surrounding their country, September 1939
- + United States has large stockpile of penicillin for use with troops, June 1944
- + Roosevelt creates National Defense Research Committee to get ready for war, September 1940
- + Roosevelt approves in principle Manhattan Project, October 1941
- + United States begins production of its first large computer (ENIAC), June 1943
- + British capture and begin studying Enigma machine, February 1940
- + Germany cuts its nuclear weapons program, January 1942
- + Great Britain starts using radar jamming, July 1943
- + First pressurized bomber, B-29, September 1942
- + Test of nuclear bomb at secret site in New Mexico, July 1945
- + Biro, who fled Nazi forces in Hungary, begins selling ballpoint pens, February 1944
- + US military begins using dried plasma to treat shock, March 1944
- + Great Britain begins investigating nuclear weapons, April 1940
- + Germans launch first V-1 attacks, June 1944
- + Great Britain and United States commit to develop nuclear weapons, June 1941
- + Colossus computer begins use in code-breaking, December 1943
- + Germans begin using first jet fighter plane, July 1944
- + British take their radar research to United States, September 1940
- + United States starts using radar to locate ground targets, March 1944
- + British can reliably crack German Enigma code, May 1941
- + Enrico Fermi creates first sustained chain reaction with uranium, December 1942
- + Germans begin using V-2 rockets against England, September 1944

Do you notice any patterns in the timeline? For example, was there a time when technological innovation was at its best? Or does an innovation change who was winning the war?